



Gifts for a King!

Every year, we hear the Christmas story. The kids put on their program, and we see the gifts of the wise men presented to the baby Jesus: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But what are these things? Is there any significance to them?

We all know about gold; it's a precious metal worth large amounts of money. We make jewelry from it, and even the value of our currency is based on the value of gold. So, think of what this mineral was worth more than 2,000 years ago. Few people had anything with any gold on it. The temple was adorned with it, and idols were made from it. Gold was a thing to be prized; it was something for kings. And here, these wise men are giving it to a child.

Frankincense is a fragrant resin harvested from certain trees, and it was often burned as incense for religious purposes. In fact, frankincense was one of the ingredients for the incense burned by Moses at the tent of meeting where he would go to meet with the Lord. Again, this was a valuable item in the days of Jesus.

Likewise, myrrh is also a resin harvested from certain trees. However, myrrh was often used as a perfume, rather than incense, though it was used for that purpose, as well. The most common use was to cover the odor of corpses before burial. Myrrh was also a very expensive item, sometimes worth an equal weight of gold or more.

So, here we have three very valuable items, items often reserved as gifts for royalty, being given to Jesus by these wise men from the east. Is there any significance behind these gifts? Here very well could be, as I will share with you at our Advent services this month. Looking forward to seeing you there!

I pray that this season of Advent is a joyful one for all of you. Christ our Savior is born!

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Paul



Christmas Cantata

SVLC Chancel Choir Cantata
Dec 17 at 8 & 10:45 a.m. services.
Invite your family and friends!

MORENO VALLEY MASTER CHORALE AND ORCHESTRA under the direction of Dr. Viorel Gheorghe joyfully presents "Carols By Candlelight" featuring a Christmas carol sing-a-long with your favorite seasonal songs on Sunday, December 10th at 4 p.m. at Shepherd of the Valley. Ticket donations are adults \$15.00; seniors/students \$10.00. You can purchase tickets in the church office.



HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Blessings! Another huge success with our annual Holiday Boutique. We raised \$3,800 and had enough to fund the balance on the current windows, order two more and purchase three new 8' tables for the fellowship hall to replace the wooden ones. Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped this year, we are very blessed to have dedicated crafters, workers, bakers and staff helping to make things go smoothly, many people put in many hours getting ready for the event. We praise and thank God for them and for blessing our Boutique. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Yours in Christ,
The Boutique Group





As my father was working on his December newsletter article he shared it with me, seeking my opinion, asking if it made sense. As I read over it for him, I found it not only made sense but it was a profound and different view of Christmas. So much so, that I asked him if I could share his thoughts with you as well. I hope you find these words as meaningful as I did.

Merry Christmas, Pastor Paul

(Reprinted with permission)

I love Christmas. I love everything about it. The church services, the music, the TV specials, the decorations. I love hot cocoa, carols, Christmas trees, Christmas specials, candle light worships, family, togetherness, everything-- you name it, I love it. I remember as a kid looking forward to Christmas Eve and I did what every kid my age did, I waited up for Santa Claus. Even though I was told I had to go to bed before he got there or there wouldn't be any presents the next morning, I loved to try and wait for him anyway. But as I grew up I also knew that Christmas was about far more than Santa and his elves. It was about Jesus. And so, I began to enjoy another kind of waiting. A more contemplative waiting for the day we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Like many Christians, I was offended that so many people enjoy the holidays without any reference to Jesus or Christianity. There are some terrible misconceptions surrounding the true meaning of the season. To many it is all about money, commercialism, and greed. Others see it as a time for parties, meals, and get-togethers.

Many children know Christmas only as a time for Santa, Frosty the snowman, and Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer. As a result, many people have no idea what the true meaning of Christmas is all about and I wanted to remind people that without Christ, there would be no Christmas in the first place. "Jesus is the Reason for the Season," You've seen it on posters and billboards, cards and ads in the newspaper. You have no doubt heard that reminder during Christmas when everyone is focusing on presents and caroling and eggnog. People remind you Jesus is the reason for the season because they want you to know that Jesus is the reason for all the celebrating and joy; He is the reason for peace on earth, He is the reason for the festive Christmas season. As I have grown in my faith, however, I have come to a different conclusion. Many say, and I know what they are saying when they do, that "Jesus is the reason for the season. But in the Bible, God presents a different view of Christmas. The Bible sets the record straight where Christmas is concerned! God gives us, in no uncertain terms, the true reason for the season. And, while Jesus is the reason we celebrate the season, in a very real sense, WE are the reason for the season!

Before you brand me a heretic and lead me to the stake to be burned, let me explain. Christmas is a Christian holiday and Jesus is the reason for celebrating the season, but you have to remember that Jesus was not born for Himself or His own personal gain...He was born for you. All that He did on earth, His birth, His life death, and resurrection were for you, not for Himself or the angels or some animals somewhere, it was all for you. In the eyes of Jesus, He isn't the reason for the season. You are. Don't misunderstand; I'm not proclaiming you the center of the universe. I'm saying that it is our sin that made Christmas necessary. I'm saying if you were the only person on the face of this planet that needed saving, Jesus *still* would've come down to earth that first Christmas morning to redeem your soul. Martin Luther would often say that the manger and the cross are made of the same wood. That is to say that they are both made by wood stained with the blood of the sin and disobedience of God's creatures. They are also stained with the sweat and tears of a God who cares about His creation. His care is shown in His sending His Son, Jesus, to close the gap of distance and separation between Him and creatures. God gave us the greatest gift that any of us could ever have and that was His Son. God gave *us* the gift of forgiveness. Jesus was born and lived so that He could offer Himself as a sacrifice for *our* sin, the ultimate act of love. What a wonderful gift that we have been given. So celebrate this wonderful gift this season, it is the source of our joy, but as you celebrate, remember, you are the reason this gift was given and thank God that He loved you enough to give this gift to you.

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Tim Yearlean



Merry Christmas from SVLS

First of all I would like to thank all of those who helped to make our Thanksgiving Feast so special. We had plenty of yummy food and a lot of help serving and cleaning. We were so very blessed and grateful. Now we give all our focus to celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The excitement is building as the children decorate their classrooms, make Christmas gifts and prepare for our Christmas program.



We would like to invite you to our Christmas Program which will be held Thursday, December 14th at 6:30 pm in the church. The children will be singing songs, reciting poems and most importantly telling the Christmas Story. After the program, we invite everyone to join us in the Fellowship Hall for cookies!

The following are our Upcoming Events:

- Dec 14 Christmas Program in the church followed by cookies in the hall. 6:30 pm
- Dec 15 Classroom Christmas Parties, gift exchange, and Santa Claus
- Dec 18-Jan 5 Kindergarten Closed - daycare available while preschool is open
- Dec 25-Jan 1 All School Closed – Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Please continue to pray for our school and that God will fill our classrooms with His little ones. Have a Very Merry Christmas.

Linda Williamson
Director

Hello there fellow members from the quilting group. This has been a very busy month for us with getting all the quilts delivered to the drop off point for LWR and now our delivery of donations for the Pregnancy and Family Resource Center.



As promised in the last newsletter here is the list of items collected for the Pregnancy Center. We had receiving blankets, washcloths, scarfs, fleece blankets, onesies, comb sets, pacifiers, bibs, toys, socks, spoons, four large bags of hotel soaps, shampoo, lotions, and bottle sets, diapers, baby lotion, baby wipes, diaper change pads, crocheted afghans and blankets, three reams of copy paper, and 42 baby quilts our group made. Boy, how wonderful so many helped to bring in items to help our local group. Thank you all so much for all your thoughtfulness.

Now we wish you a very happy holiday season and may you all be blessed by God's grace. We will be back to work in January. Check the bulletin for dates and times or call Linda Olson 276-0373 for more details. Thank you all for being such a caring church and wonderful family.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: We would like to wish everybody a belated Happy Thanksgiving and hope that everybody had a great holiday. Our Thanksgiving food boxes were a great success this year. We had the opportunity to supply seven families with a food box. We know that just this one little service that our church can provide to these needy families makes one day easier on them. The social ministry committee could not be putting together these boxes for families in our church or community without the weekly donations of nonperishable items, food donations received from our preschool families, and our turkey angels. Our next project for the month of December is to work on getting the necessary items needed for our Christmas food boxes. We will again be placing nomination forms in the church lobby starting December 3rd, for our Christmas food boxes. These forms need to be returned no later than December 17th, to either the church office, a church Elder, or Pastor Paul. Please check your weekly Sunday announcements for items that are needed for the food boxes as they might be changing from week to week. Anybody who is interested in donating hams for our food boxes must have the hams to the church no later than December 18th. Christmas is a time of sharing what the Lord has blessed many of us with during the year. Again, we would really like to thank everybody for their weekly nonperishable donations, the preschool's donation of sacks of potatoes, and our very special turkey angels. This ministry holds a very special meaning to our family and we are very thankful for your support through prayer and your donations.



~Eva Carlson and Bernice Bennett



STITCHED IN PRAYER; GIVEN IN LOVE.

Please consider joining us at 10 am on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month. We can show you how to use a very simple pattern to create a gift that provides comfort and hope. Please see Lisa Butterfield or Kathy Muckala if you have any questions.

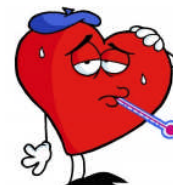


Heart Attacks Spike After the Flu

Just another reason to be sure to get your flu shot. In a study of 578 heart attack patients, 17% reported having the flu, a cold, or other respiratory infection within a week prior to the attack. Symptoms to watch for are chest pain, shortness of breath, nausea and lightheadedness.

When having your blood pressure taken:

Sit in a chair with your back against the back.
Support your arm so that it is at heart level.
Breathe slowly.



Suzy Langhorne, Parish Health Minister

YOUTH GROUP SCOOP

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE:

In December we will continue to work on the book of Revelation. We will be meeting on December

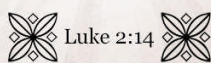
3rd and drawing names for a Secret Santa gift exchange and on December 17th we'll have the gift exchange and Christmas goodies. Hope you can all make it.

On Sunday morning, December 24th at the 9:30 a.m. service, the youth will be helping in the service with ushering, reading, power point, etc. Be sure to check with Pastor Paul during the youth group meetings to find out what you will be doing.

WANTED: YOUTH LEADER

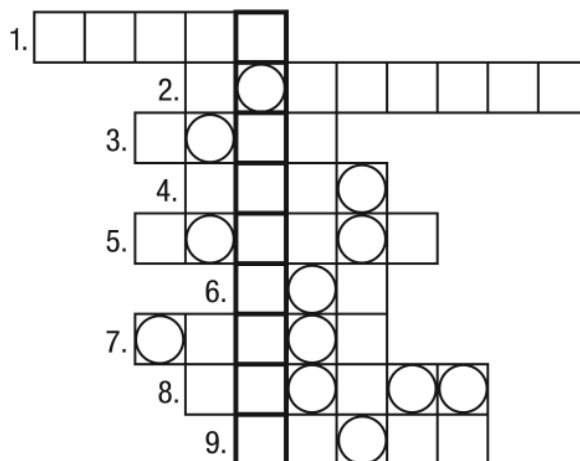
We are looking for someone to lead our youth group. If you know anyone who might be interested in this position, please contact Pastor Paul.

Glory to God
in the highest,
and on earth peace,
good will toward men.



Puzzle!

Use the clues to fill in the blanks. Then write the word from the boldface vertical column. Also unscramble the circled letters to reveal a seasonal phrase.



1. Carolers and instrumentalists make this
2. What happens at malls
3. The angel Gabriel appeared to her
4. You'll find this under a Christmas tree
5. He was a carpenter
6. Joseph had to pay this in Bethlehem
7. The "ship of the desert"
8. Cattle eat out of this
9. Shepherds tend this

Bold word: _____

Seasonal phrase: _____

Answers: music, shopping, Mary, gift, Joseph, tax, camel, manger, sheep, Christmas, peace on earth



CHRISTMAS IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

To plan ahead helps with the gift giving process at this time of the year and scrip can help you do that. Just ask my family or even Pastor's family, as they have received scrip cards as gifts. Grab a list from the church lobby and start planning ahead. I will be in front of church every Sunday in November and the first two Sunday's in December to help get the cards to you on time. Remember, it does take a whole week to get them back. Thank you!

Karen Rice

2018 FLOWER CHART

If you'd like to donate flowers for the altar, sign up on the board hanging in the church lobby. Indicate what the flowers are for - anniversary, birthday, in honor of or in memory. Take a slip with ordering instructions. Flowers are ordered by you from Moreno Valley Flower Box (653-3171) and they deliver them to church. Each large bouquet is \$26. Small altar bouquets are \$19 each. Questions? Call the office.



Joseph Project - Community (Citywide) food Bank

Shepherd is working with other churches in Moreno Valley with this community food bank that provides food for the needy every Thursday from a distribution center at the Koinonia Evangelistic Center, 21866 Brill Rd., Moreno Valley (951-867-3050). Volunteers are needed to help out with distribution, sorting, clean up, etc. at the center. Contributions to the Joseph Project will be gratefully accepted through Shepherd. Please pray for this ministry and volunteer your time and talents! Contact Larry Alexander for more information.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS:



Thrivent members are eligible to designate Choice Dollars to a church or charity of their choice. Undesignated dollars "expire" after March 31. Go to thrivent.com and click the MyThrivent button on the upper right side of the site and direct your Choice Dollars. Both the church and school are registered to receive Choice Dollars and Shepherd is grateful to those who have contributed through this program.



MORENO VALLEY YOUTH OPPORTUNITY CENTER for youth 16-24. Need help finding a job or getting your high school diploma? They can help with personal and professional development, use of office resources, getting your diploma/GED and with college preparation. Call (951) 653-1311 for more information. This is a free service and offers paid work experience. Info flyers are available in the lobby.



INVITE OTHERS TO OUR CHURCH AND SCHOOL!

SVLC business cards are available (in packets of 10) in a basket in the church lobby. Take a pack and pass them out to strangers, friends and neighbors who need a church home or a preschool for their children.

NEEDED FOR NURSING HOMES:
Magazines and greeting card fronts.
Bring to the church or office.



Please join us for the School Christmas Program on Thursday, December 14th at 6:30 p.m.



DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR FOOD DONATIONS FOR OUR LOCAL FOOD BANKS EACH SUNDAY!
Thank You!



Thursdays at 9:30 AM
In the Fellowship Hall
Presented by Suzy Langhorne
Certified Instructor
Please join us - it's free!

SAVE BOX TOPS FOR OUR SCHOOL!



Specially marked box tops are worth \$.10 each when redeemed from Box Tops for Education. Encourage friends & family, near & far to help, too. Thanks for taking the time to help our school.

The sponsors appearing on the back cover of the newsletter help defray the cost of printing the Shepherd's Staff, please give them your consideration when possible.

**Ads
Go
Here**

**Calendar
Goes
Here**



The Shepherd's Staff

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES: Sunday: 8:00 & 10:45 AM

"Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." — Francis of Assisi

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School (951) 924-3422
www.svlcmoval.net

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**PAUL YEARYEAN, PASTOR
LINDA WILLIAMSON, PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR
MARGE CLARK, OFFICE MANAGER**

December 2017



Midweek Advent Services & Soup Suppers
Wednesdays, December 6, 13, 20
Services at 4 & 6:30 pm
Soup Supper at 5 pm

Women's Christmas Dinner - Friday, Dec. 8 at 6 pm

Moreno Valley Master Chorale Christmas Concert
Sunday, Dec. 10 at 4 pm


Secret Pal Revealing Party – Monday, Dec. 11 at 6 pm

School Christmas Program – Thursday, Dec. 14 at 6:30 pm

**Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata – Sunday, Dec 17 at 8 am &
10:45 am**

Christmas Eve Sunday Morning – One Service Only at 9:30 am

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p><i>Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him</i></p>					1 10:00 AM School Chapel (S) 6:30 PM Youth Tree Trimming (S) 8:00 PM A.A. Meeting (H)	2 8:30 AM Cursillo Grouping @ Panera Bread 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (O) 6:00 PM Progressive Dinner (Alexanders)
3 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H-PS) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) 5:00 PM Confirmation (O) 6:30 PM Youth Group (Y)	4 10:00 AM First Place TLC (Reese Home) 6:30 PM Women of Faith (Riccardis) 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S)	5 5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S) 6:00 PM School Board Meeting (O)	6 9:30 AM Bible Study Fellowship (H) 4:00 PM Midweek Advent Service (S) 5:00 PM Soup Supper (H) 6:30 PM Midweek Advent Service (S)	7 7:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 10:00 AM School Chapel (S) 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S)	8 6:00 PM Women's Dinner & Gift Exchange (H)	9 9:00 AM Knights of the Holy Spirit Bible Study (H)
10 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H-PS) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) 4:00 PM MV Chorale Christmas Concert (S-H) 5:00 PM Confirmation (O) 6:30 PM Youth Group (Y)	11 9:00 AM Women's Koffee Klatch @ Brandon's 6:00 PM School Staff Meeting (O) 6:00 PM Secret Pal Revealing (H) 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S)	12 5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S) 7:00 PM Elders Meeting (O)	13 9:30 AM Bible Study Fellowship (H) 4:00 PM Midweek Advent Service (S) 5:00 PM Soup Supper (H) 6:30 PM Midweek Advent Service (S) 6:30 PM MV Historical Society (O)	14 7:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 7:00 PM Growing in Grace Bible Study (H)	15 10:00 AM School Chapel (S) 4:00 PM Hall in Use 8:00 PM A.A. Meeting (H)	16 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (O)
17 8:00 AM & 10:45 AM Choir Cantata (S) 9:30 AM Sunday School (O-PS) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) 5:00 PM Confirmation (O) 6:30 PM Youth Group (Y)	18 10:00 AM First Place TLC (Reese Home) 6:30 PM Women of Faith (Riccardis) 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S)	19 5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S) 7:00 PM M & M Board (O)	20 4:00 PM Midweek Advent Service (S) 5:00 PM Soup Supper (H) 6:30 PM Midweek Advent Service (S)	21 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 10:00 AM School Chapel (S)	22 8:00 PM A.A. Meeting (H)	23 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Brandon's
24 9:30 AM One Morning Service Only (S) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) 6:00 PM & 11 PM Christmas Eve Services (S)	25 9:30 AM Christmas Day Service (S)	26	27	28 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H)	29 8:00 PM A.A. Meeting (H)	30
31 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H-PS) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H)	<p>Remember - There will be only one Sunday morning service on Sunday, December 24 at 9:30 am.</p> <p>Christmas Eve services will be at 6 and 11 pm.</p>					

Sunday Worship: 8 AM and 10:45 AM

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 am -- 5:00 pm, MONDAY - FRIDAY